

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1 and 8-13 in accordance with the following:

1. (currently amended) A process apparatus, comprising:

    a storage unit storing information about a discussion at an electronic conference;  
and

    a judgment unit calculating an index ~~relating to~~ indicating an amount of the  
information stored about the discussion and judging whether to hold a face-to-face conference  
based on the index.

2. (original) The process apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising

    a notification unit notifying participants of the electronic conference of a holding of  
the face-to-face conference if said judgment unit determines to hold the face-to-face conference.

3. (original) The process apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising  
    a reservation unit making reservations for facilities needed to hold the face-to-  
face conference if said judgment unit determines to hold the face-to-face conference,  
    said notification unit notifies expected participants of information about reserved  
facilities.

4. (original) The process apparatus according to claim 3, wherein

    said reservation unit makes reservations for transportation needed for the  
expected participants to participate at the face-to-face conference; and

    said notification unit notifies the expected participants of information about  
reserved transportation.

5. (original) The process apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said judgment unit uses a number of speakers in the discussion as the index, and  
if the number of speakers exceeds a specific value, said judgment unit determines to hold the  
face-to-face conference.

6. (original) The process apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said judgment unit  
uses a number of utterances in the discussion as the index, and if the number of utterances  
exceeds a specific value, said judgment unit determines to hold the face-to-face conference.

7. (original) The process apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said storage unit stores information about the discussion in a tree structure; and  
said judgment unit uses a depth of the tree structure as the index, and if the  
depth of the tree structure exceeds a specific value, said judgment unit determines to hold the  
face-to-face conference.

8. (currently amended) The process apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said  
judgment unit uses a data amount of the information stored about the discussion as the index,  
and if the data amount exceeds a specific value, said judgment unit determines to hold the face-  
to-face conference.

9. (currently amended) A process apparatus, comprising:  
a storage unit storing information about a discussion at an electronic conference;  
and  
a judgment unit calculating an index relating to indicating a possibility of the  
discussion diverging and judging whether to hold a face-to-face conference based on the index.

10. (currently amended) A process apparatus for executing a process of an  
asynchronous electronic conference among a plurality of areas in a distributed environment,  
comprising:

a communications unit transmitting information about a discussion at the  
electronic conference between areas;  
a storage unit storing the information about the discussion; and  
a judgment unit judging whether to hold a face-to-face conference based on an  
amount of the stored information about the discussion.

11. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium on which is recorded a program enabling a computer to execute a process, said process comprising:  
calculating an index relating to indicating an amount of stored information about a discussion at an electronic conference; and  
judging whether to hold a face-to-face conference based on the index.
12. (currently amended) A process method comprising:  
recording information about a discussion at an electronic conference;  
calculating an index relating to indicating an amount of the information about the discussion; and  
judging whether to hold a face-to-face conference based on the index.
13. (currently amended) A process apparatus, comprising:  
storage means for storing information about a discussion at an electronic conference; and  
judgment means for calculating an index relating to indicating an amount of the information stored about the discussion and judging whether to hold a face-to-face conference based on the index.